

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND LABOR  
March 21, 2005  
CONFIRMATION HEARING

The Committee on Business and Labor met at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, March 21, 2005, in Room 2102 of the State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska, for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on confirmation of appointment. Senators present: Doug Cunningham, Chairperson; Jeanne Combs, Vice Chairperson; Carroll Burling; Bob Kremer; Don Preister; and DiAnna Schimek. Senators absent: Ernie Chambers.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: It's time to go ahead and start. I'd welcome you to the Business and Labor Committee, but you're the only person to welcome today, other than Mr. Pahls. And our agenda today is a confirmation, a Governor's confirmation hearing, and I will introduce you to the members of the committee. We have Senator Burling, to my far right, from Kenesaw; Senator Preister, from Omaha; Grace is the legal counsel, Grace Honeywell, for the committee; to my far left is Senator Kremer, from Aurora; and to my left Kendra Papenhausen, the committee clerk, and I'm Senator Cunningham, the Chair of the committee. And if anyone else comes in while you're here, we'll introduce you and then after we're done with that, we're going to go into Executive Session. So I would say that if you do happen to have a cell phone on, please turn it off, and with that we welcome you and you can tell us a little bit about yourself. And you're an appointee for the Boiler Safety Code Advisory Board.

CONFIRMATION HEARING ON  
KENNETH STEWART TO THE  
BOILER SAFETY CODE ADVISORY BOARD

KENNETH STEWART: Okay. Correct. Well, just a little bit of history. I've been involved in the boiler business for 17 years now. The first seven years I worked for a manufacturer's representative in Omaha, B.G. Peterson Company, one of the oldest reps around, still in business. The last 10 years, I've been working for a contractor--service, install and repair contractor, and that was the American Boiler Company, out of Omaha, and in fact I'm replacing Jim Marvin, which is the owner and president of American Boiler Company. Apparently, he doesn't have the time to spend, or the interest. So that's why I'm here.

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SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Okay. Thank you. Do we have any questions for Mr. Stewart? Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Tell us a little bit about how often you meet and what some of the responsibilities are and what you look forward to...how often do you have your meetings and...

KENNETH STEWART: This is the first I've been involved with Boiler Safety,...

SENATOR KREMER: I see.

KENNETH STEWART: ...so I believe it's once a year.

SENATOR KREMER: Okay. Well, it doesn't take a lot of time.

KENNETH STEWART: Apparently not.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: You know, we did have two other members of this advisory board, that were up for appointment the other day, so we asked them a few of the questions and I believe it was...they are required to meet once a year. So, does anyone...Senator Preister.

SENATOR PREISTER: Yes, I notice on your resume that your degree was including solar energy technology.

KENNETH STEWART: Yes.

SENATOR PREISTER: Have you had any opportunity to use that, since you've been up state?

KENNETH STEWART: Unfortunately not. I went to...got my education from Southeast Community College in Milford and at that time they offered solar energy, and that's basically why I went to school, is to get educated on solar energy. And right around '81, '82, the government killed all the grants for solar energy studies and projects, and so that pretty much took me out of that field and put me into the heating, air conditioning and boiler field. As far as being on the contracting end, we've done a little bit, as far as, handle heat up on, you know, solar panels up on a garage for in-floor heating and that type of stuff, but that's pretty much it. So not a whole lot of it.

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SENATOR PREISTER: When the federal funds dry up, the program dries up, unfortunately.

KENNETH STEWART: Yeah, it really is. I believe there's a lot of free energy out there.

SENATOR PREISTER: There is. Thank you. Thanks for being here.

KENNETH STEWART: Um-hum. You bet.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Thank you, Senator. Mr. Stewart, I'd like to introduce you to Senator Schimek, from Lincoln.

KENNETH STEWART: Hello.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: How do you do?

KENNETH STEWART: Nice to meet you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: And Senator Combs from Milligan.

KENNETH STEWART: Hello.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Senator Combs is the Vice Chair of the committee. Does anyone else have any questions?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Well, I apologize for walking in late. I got delayed downstairs, and so I'm afraid I didn't get to hear your remarks, and so I guess I'm questionless at this point. Clueless, maybe, too.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Stewart is basically a new appointee; he's just starting, so he's not been to any meetings, at this point.

KENNETH STEWART: Correct.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: He's been in the business a long time; would you care to share this?

KENNETH STEWART: Sure.

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SENATOR SCHIMEK: Oh, I'm sorry, you don't need to go...

KENNETH STEWART: Well, just real quick as far as past experience, I've got seven years working for a manufacturer's representative in Omaha, that represented boilers and hydronic heating equipment. And 10 years of practical experience, working for a contractor--service, repair and install contractor, out of Omaha.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: So, you pretty well understand what your job will be on that?

KENNETH STEWART: I would hope so. I'm also the quality control manager, for our, "R" Stamp program. An "R" Stamp is basically certification to weld on pressure vessels, and I've had the fortunate pleasure of renewing that, three times now. That comes up every three years, and that's done with the national board and of course the states and ASME Boiler codes, so I guess I can throw that into the mix.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Okay. Thank you.

KENNETH STEWART: Sure.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Any other questions? Seeing none, thank you for coming today, we appreciate that and...

KENNETH STEWART: You bet. Sure.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: ...this will end the hearing on these...

KENNETH STEWART: Okay.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: ...gubernatorial appointments.

KENNETH STEWART: Well, it was nice meeting everybody.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you.

KENNETH STEWART: You bet.